FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

NOVEL ARREST ORDERED AS PLOT PROBE WITNESS

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

New Orleans States-Item

SENT BUREAU

MM
DL

Date: 3-23-67
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor:
Title: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY 11-22-63
Character:
or
Classification: 89-
Submitting Office: N.O.

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
MAR 23 1967
FBI — NEW ORLEANS

JG 1-G 1-253

In another development today, Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. was named to preside at the trial

(A story about trial Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. will be found on Page 2.)

of Clay L. Shaw, indicted yesterday for criminal conspiracy in the slaying of the President.

The DA's office today filed an affidavit saying it had "good reason to believe" Novel is a material witness in the grand jury's investigation of the assassination.

The affidavit charges that Novel fled the parish while under grand jury subpena. It asserts that he severed his business ties and stated publicly he has no intention of returning.

The affidavit said Novel must be placed under sizable bond or the grand jury will "be deprived of a most important and material witness."

A SECOND AFFIDAVIT similarly alleged he is a material witness in the investigation of the assassination. It was this document, signed by Criminal District Judge Matthew S. Braniff, that ordered a capias issued for the arrest of Novel.

It said bail would be fixed at $50,000.

Technically, this means Novel faces a hearing as a material witness in the case. The hearing was allotted to Criminal District Judge Rudolph Becker.

Novel's exact connection with the Kennedy case has never been disclosed. When he was first subpenaed by the grand jury, he said he thought Garrison wanted to question him about activities "during 1961 which are related to Mr. Sergio Arcacha Smith."

ARCACHA, NOW A DALLAS resident, says he never heard of Novel. Arcacha headed an anti-Castro group here in 1961 which had offices in a small Camp st. building about five blocks off Canal.

Some of the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba leaflets handed out by Lee Harvey Oswald here in August 1963, had the same address.

Last night in Columbus, Novel charged that "political ambition" lurks behind Garrison's probe. He denied any knowledge of any conspiracy.

A New Orleans judge today ordered the arrest of Gordon Novel as a material witness in the investigation of the murder of President John F. Kennedy.

Novel, a former New Orleans nightclub owner, was subpenaed to appear before the parish grand jury yesterday as Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe of the Kennedy slaying, but he could not be found.

He later turned up in Columbus, Ohio, but left there today, leaving word that he was going to Chicago.

States-Item Photo.

JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY JR.

NOVEL SAID HE first helped Garrison in the probe at the request of a friend of the district attorney but "Garrison double - crossed me." He did not elaborate.

Novel did not say where he intended to go in Chicago. He checked out of his Columbus hotel at 7 a.m. He left a note reading:

"Due to pressure from New Orleans, I had to leave. Will prove my statement in Chicago in due course. This is off the record. No further comment."

Novel testified before the grand jury March 16 and had been subpenaed for a second appearance yesterday.

He said in Columbus he did not want to return without a guarantee of immunity from "harassment."

He said he knew Shaw "but not in connection with this." He said he "indirectly" knew a Dave Ferrie but not Perry R. Russo.

NOVEL SAID that at the time Kennedy was slain he was working in the Louisiana pavilion of the New York World's Fair.

Novel's attorney said he recently sold his interest in the Jamaican Village Lounge on N. Rampart.

Shaw today was reported headed for a hideaway on the Mississippi Gulf Coast with Garrison's approval.

HIS ATTORNEYS filed a motion yesterday, approved by Garrison, asking permission for Shaw to spend the Easter holidays at an unspecified location on the coast. The attorneys said Shaw could return to the city within three hours if necessary.

In a rapid-fire series of developments during the past 24 hours:

—Dean A. Andrews Jr., a suspended Jefferson Parish assistant DA, pleaded not guilty of perjury in connection with the assassination probe at his arraignment before Criminal District Judge Frank Shea.

—Albert Jenner, a Chicago lawyer who was a Warren Commission investigator, said the commission uncovered no evidence indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald had a confederate in the assassination.

—Arthur Strout, a 26-year-old Boston dishwasher, was nowhere to be found. A Garrision investigator said he wanted to talk to Strout about a photo he claimed to have showing him with Oswald, Jack Ruby, Perry R. Russo and two other men made in Ruby's Dallas night club a month before Kennedy was killed on Nov. 22, 1963.

Shaw, who retired in October, 1965, as managing director of the International Trade Mart, has been free on $10,000 bond since his arrest March 1.

Garrison had said earlier he would bypass the grand jury and file a bill of information before bringing Shaw to trial. Yesterday, he reversed his field and went the grand jury route.

However, even if the grand jury had returned a no true bill, he could have brought Shaw to trial by filing the bill of information. Such a bill would have divulged specific details of the case.

THE JURY'S true bill charged Shaw with "wilfully and unlawfully conspiring with David W. Ferrie, Lee Harvey Oswald and unnamed others to murder John F. Kennedy."

Russo, Garrison's 25-year-old star witness, made a surprise appearance before the announcement of the indictment.

Russo told last week's preliminary hearing he heard Shaw, Ferrie and Oswald plotting in mid-September of 1963 to kill Kennedy. Shaw is the only one of the conspirators named in the indictment still alive.

Ferrie, 47, was found dead here Feb. 22. Oswald was shot to death in Dallas two days after the assassination by Ruby.

Shaw was discharged from Southern Baptist Hospital last night after treatment for a back injury. He entered the hospital last Saturday.

Andrews, 44, a lawyer who told the Warren Commission he was contacted by a "Clay Bertrand" after the assassination who asked him to defend Oswald, was indicted last Thursday by the grand jury.

GARRISON contends that Bertrand is an alias for Shaw. Andrews says he cannot confirm this.

Andrews' attorneys were granted a jury trial yesterday, but no date was set.

Jenner commented in Chicago on Russo's testimony of an assassination conspiracy. He said the doubt about Russo's knowledge of a plot stems from "the fact that he kept his peace for 2½ years, despite the fact of my presence and the presence of Mr. W. G. Leibler (another Warren Commission investigator").

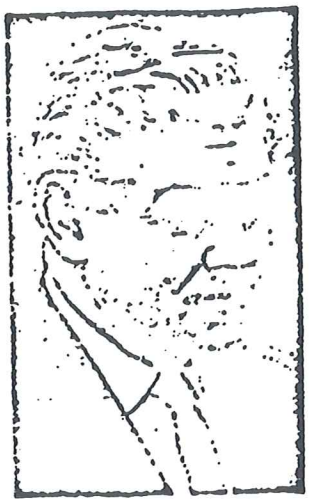
"In all the careful investigating we understood we never heard the name Russo and nobody described to us anyone resembling this man," Jenner said.

He said the commission report accounts for Oswald's whereabouts outside New Orleans from Sept. 25 to Nov. 24, when he was killed by Ruby.

STROUT, A former resident of Auburn, Maine, was being sought for questioning.

Garrison aide William Gurvich said he bought a one-way airline ticket for Strout, who was supposed to have left Boston for New Orleans late last week.

In Boston, Strout's father said there was "no photograph. There never was one. Arthur would say he was with John Wilkes Booth at Lincoln's assassination if he thought he could get publicity out of it."



—States-Item Photo

JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY JR.